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Foreword

The concluding volume of the trilogy covering my duels with Anatoly Karpov is devoted to our tournament games, beginning in 1988, and to our fifth match for the world crown (1990).

The three years after the Seville match (1987) were notable for the unprecedented enlivenment of international chess life. This was the heyday of the Grandmasters Association (GMA), which succeeded in organising the World Cup – the first time in history that a tournament championship of the leading chess players on the planet had been held. It need hardly be said that this new competition was also marked by my sharp rivalry with Karpov. As, however, was the ‘stellar’ 55th USSR Championship (1988), which ended in a share of first place and a major scandal.

In the meantime Karpov won three Candidates matches and again gained the right to battle for the championship title. By that time the GMA had united nearly all the grandmasters in the world, it had powerful potential sponsors, and it was ready to take on the running of the world championship, as expressed in a resolution of the GMA General Assembly, which was approved by an overwhelming majority of votes on 18 December 1989 in Mallorca. Chess had acquired a real chance of ridding itself of the FIDE dictatorship and moving onto professional lines. But Campomanes & Co. would not accept this. Six months later a part of the GMA management board, including Karpov, suggested leaving the running of the world championship with FIDE, and the next assembly in the Spanish town of Murcia approved this by a majority of just a few votes. From that point on the activity of the GMA was gradually reduced to nothing...

My fifth duel with Karpov (New York/Lyon 1990) turned out to be the last classical match for the world championship held under the aegis of FIDE. I won 12½-11½. As always, the match took a very tense course, but, for all the wealth of ideas demonstrated, its influence on the development of chess was not so significant as our previous four matches, which by

the early 1990s had produced a powerful new generation: Anand, Ivanchuk, Gelfand, Short, Kamsky, Shirov, Kramnik, Topalov... The composition of the chess elite underwent a drastic change, and Karpov and I were no longer able to dominate unconditionally in tournaments. Previously it was unimaginable that neither of us would take first place, but in 1991 at the super-tournaments in Linares, Amsterdam and Reggio Emilia, we were overtaken by the new wave.

I was able to readjust and win twice in succession at Linares (1992 and 1993), but Karpov, unable to overcome the crisis, suffered a sensational defeat against Short in their semi-final Candidates match in the spring of 1992. Then Short won the final against Timman and... unexpectedly suggested to me that we should play our match for the world championship outside of the FIDE framework. Deciding that this was a convenient opportunity to finally place chess on a professional basis, I agreed. And the Kasparov-Short match (1993) took place under the aegis of a new organisation created by us – the Professional Chess Association (PCA). In response, FIDE deprived me and Short of the rights of champion and challenger, and organised a match ‘for the world championship’ between the two reserve candidates, who had lost in the qualifying cycle – Timman and Karpov.

The sudden opportunity to regain the crown, even if only the FIDE version, literally revived and transformed the ex-champion. In the spring and summer of 1993 he finished first in Dos Hermanas and Dortmund, and in the autumn, when I had overcome Short, he did not allow Timman any chances, and, after winning the title created by FIDE, he won a strong knock-out tournament in Tilburg. Then came the triumph of Linares 1994, where Karpov attempted to demonstrate that his official title meant no less than my historic one – and he won with the outstanding score of 11 out of 13.

At the end of 1994, after numerous problems, a declaration of collaboration between FIDE and the PCA was signed, providing for a unifying match between the winners of the two forthcoming world championship cycles. In the final I won the PCA version against Anand (1995) and Karpov won the FIDE version against Kamsky (1996).

But our sixth match, alas, did not in fact take place. At the super-tournament in Las Palmas (December 1996) I finished first, but Karpov shared last place and ceased to be regarded as a real contender for the crown. Sponsors lost interest in a match between the two ‘K’s’, and the new FIDE President Ilyumzhinov began actively promoting ‘one-off’ knock-out world championships. The chess paths of Karpov and me diverged, and with the exception of Linares 2001 we never again met in classical tournaments. However, we played a number of rapid and blitz games, with which this volume concludes.

Autumn 2009 was – just imagine! – the 25th anniversary of the start of the first Karpov-Kasparov match. Putin’s Russia and FIDE ‘forgot’ about this date, but the Spanish marked it with a colourful chess festival in Valencia. The new meeting of the 12th and 13th champions reminded many of their fierce duel, which was unique not only for chess, and also for top-class sport as a whole – five matches for the world championship in the space of six years!

I should like to express my gratitude to my former trainers Alexander Nikitin and Alexander Shkarov for their help in the preparation of this manuscript for publication.

Karpov arrived in Valencia a few days before the start of the match; his team included grandmasters Viorel Bologan, Alexander Onischuk and Alexander Riazantsev. I flew in to the match a day before the start, accompanied by my wife, my mother and her helpers. However, I will not hide the fact that before that I played a series of training games.

On the first day Karpov and I each gave a 20 board simultaneous display, and over the following three days we played against each other a 'rapid' match of four games (time control of 25 minutes each, plus 5 seconds a move) and a blitz match of eight games (5 minutes each plus 2 seconds a move).

Game 55

A.Karpov-G.Kasparov

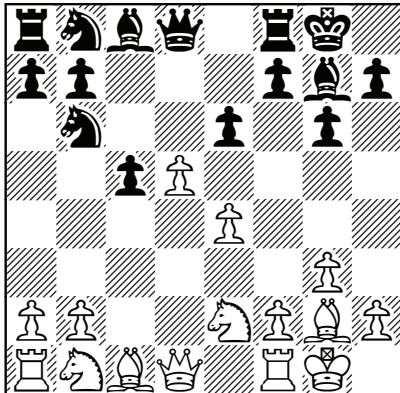
Valencia (rapid) 22.09.2009,

1st game

Grünfeld Defence D72

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 ♙g7 4 ♙g2 d5 5 cxd5 (5 ♖f3 – Game Nos.42, 47) 5...♞xd5 6 e4 ♞b6 7 ♖e2 c5 8 d5 0-0 9 0-0 e6

In this old set-up White pins his hopes on his passed d-pawn, and Black on his active piece counterplay.



10 ♞bc3 (10 ♞ec3 is more topical – Game Nos.57, 62, 66) **10...♞a6**

This was played back in 1939 by Reshevsky, and it is more subtle than 10...exd5 11 exd5 ♞a6 because of 12 d6!. Therefore after the early pawn exchange they play 11...♙f5 12 h3 h5 (Karpov-Ljubojevic, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1995).

11 h3

Useful prophylaxis, excluding ...♙f5 in view of g3-g4. After the popular move 11 ♞f4 Black has a choice between 11...exd5 and 11...e5.

11...exd5 12 exd5 ♞c4!?

A typical knight manoeuvre to the d6 blockading square. Here Karpov stopped to think...

13 b3 ♞d6 14 ♙f4 b6 (the place for the c8-bishop is at b7) **15 ♚d2 ♙b7!?**

15...♞e8 16 ♞ad1 ♙b7 is also not bad (Tregubov-Sutovsky, Amsterdam 2001), but for the moment it is not essential to play ...♞e8 – the rook may also come in useful on f8. At any event, from the opening Black has achieved a good game.

16 ♞ad1 ♞c7 (here I still had 21 minutes left, while Karpov had just 11) **17 g4**

Also a typical idea: the f5-square is taken away from the black pieces, and White acquires the g3-square.

17...♚d7

This natural move, connecting the rooks, was nominally a novelty: previously 17...♙a6 18 ♞fe1 or 17...♞e8 18 a4 was tried.

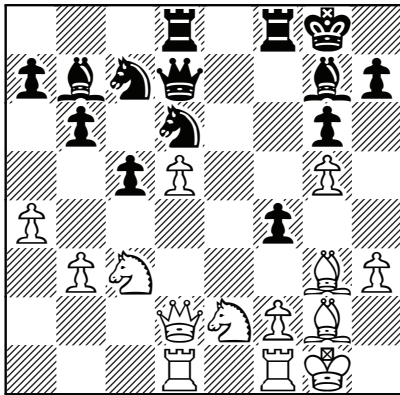
18 a4 (if 18 ♞g3 there would have followed 18...♞cb5!) **18...f5 19 g5 ♞ad8** (now threatening ...♞e4) **20 ♙g3**

'Typical Karpov: the minimum of calculation! He places a hanging piece under the protection of a pawn – so that it won't be lost! At the same time the f4-square is vacated for the knight.' (Shipov)

20...f4?!

'And this is typical Kasparov, the young and fervent version! This original pawn sacrifice is aimed at clearing space for the black pieces. And although 20...♖e4 was objectively stronger, with great simplification, who will be interested in this objectivity if the game is won?' (Shipov)

And indeed, 20...♖e4! 21 ♖xe4 fxe4 22 ♙xc7 ♜xc7 23 ♙xe4 ♜d6 would have given Black excellent compensation for the pawn, which cannot be said about 20...f4. On the other hand, this rejoinder came as a complete surprise to Karpov: on his reply he thought for four out of his remaining six minutes (I still had nine left).



21 ♖xf4 ♖f5 22 ♖b5?! (after 22 ♜fe1 ♙d4 23 ♙h2 I would still have had to demonstrate that I had sufficient compensation) 22...♖xb5 23 axb5 ♖d4?!

23...♙d4! 24 ♙h2 ♜xb5 or 24...♙e5 was more accurate, with a comfortable game.

And here, as he was making the move 24 ♖e6 (24 ♜d3! was more ambitious), White lost on time (0-1), although after 24...♖xe6 25 dxe6 ♜xd2 26 ♜xd2 ♜xd2 27 ♙xb7 a draw was the most probable result.

Thus, I opened the score. After a short break the 2nd game began, and on this occasion, remembering about the misad-

ventures of New York 2002, I was extremely composed.

Game 56

G.Kasparov-A.Karpov
Valencia (rapid) 22.09.2009,
2nd game
Queen's Gambit D31

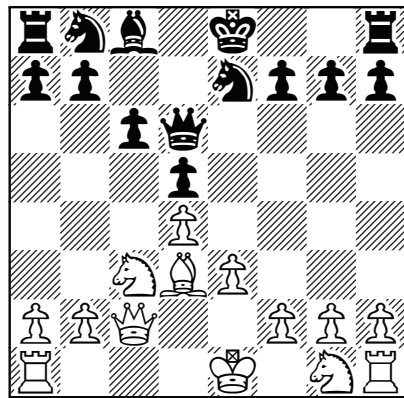
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♙e7 4 cxd5 (4 ♙f4 – Game Nos.63, 65) 4...exd5 5 ♙f4 c6

The deeds of ages long gone by... In three matches for the crown we also tested 5...♖f6.

6 ♜c2 (in the blitz games I switched to 6 e3 – Game Nos.59, 61) 6...♙d6

This is better than 6...g6 7 e3 ♙f5 8 ♜d2! (7th game of the 1986 match).

7 ♙xd6 ♜xd6 8 e3 ♖e7 (they began playing this instead of 8...♖f6 9 ♙d3, Beliavsky-Geller, Moscow Interzonal 1982) 9 ♙d3



9...♖d7

The alternative is 9...g6 (Game No.58) or 9...b6 10 ♖f3 (10 e4!?) 10...♙a6 11 0-0 ♙xd3 12 ♜xd3 0-0! (12...♖d7 is worse in view of 13 e4!, Carlsen-Yakovenko, Nanjing 2009), when 13 e4 is unclear in view of 13...dxe4 14 ♖xe4 ♜d5.

10 ♖ge2

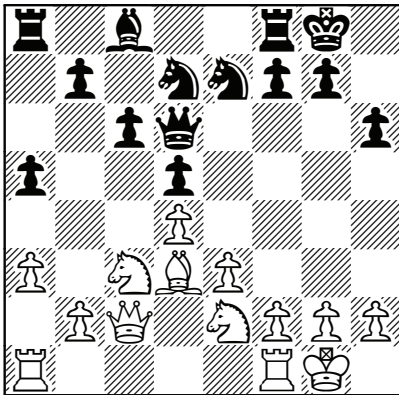
A flexible continuation typical of the given pawn structure, which enables White to carry out Botvinnik's classical plan with f2-f3 and e3-e4 (Game No.43 in Volume II of *My Great Predecessors*).

10...h6

A novelty! 10...♖h6 had been played, with the same idea of ...0-0, but this looks unaesthetic. 10...♘f6 11 f3! 0-0 12 0-0 ♔d7 13 e4 dxe4 14 ♘xe4 ♘xe4 15 fxe4 is also better for White (Vaiser-Kharitonov, Novosibirsk 1989).

11 0-0 0-0 12 a3 (here too 12 f3 was good, but for the moment I did not want to force events) **12...a5**

In the event of 12...♘f6 the move 13 f3! would now have gained in strength.



13 ♖ad1 b6?!

With the idea of 14 f3 ♔a6, but the weakening of the pawn chain and the c6-point allows White to launch an immediate attack in the centre, exploiting the fact that Black is somewhat behind in development.

14 e4! dxe4 15 ♘xe4 ♖b8

15...♖c7 (Shipov) was possibly more tenacious, but then after 16 ♔c4 Black would have been unable to exchange bishops (16...♔a6? 17 ♔xa6 ♖xa6 18 d5 and wins).

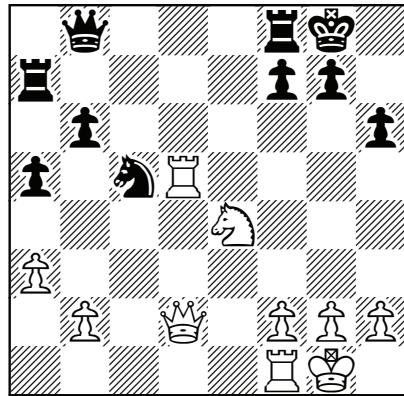
16 ♘2c3 ♔a6 17 ♔xa6 ♖xa6 18 d5! (White's initiative rapidly snowballs) **18...♘xd5 19**

♘xd5 cxd5 20 ♖xd5 ♖a7 21 ♖d2

The developing 21 ♖fd1 was more forceful, but I had already seen the forthcoming stroke and I was unable to resist the temptation.

21...♘c5?

This is what I was hoping for. Karpov sacrifices a pawn, avoiding the unpleasant 21...♘e5 22 f4! ♘g4 23 h3, but he goes from the frying pan into the fire...



22 ♘f6+! (both spectacular, and effective) 22...gxf6 (22...♔h8 23 ♖h5! and ♖xh6+!) 23 ♖xh6 f5

Alas, the black pieces are too far away from their king and are unable to come to the rescue.

24 ♖g5+ ♔h8 25 ♖f6+ ♔g8 26 ♖xf5 ♘e4 27 ♖h4 ♔e8 28 ♖h5

And here, as he was playing 28...f5, Black lost on time (1-0). His position is hopeless: after 29 ♖h8+ ♔f7 30 ♖h7+ ♔f6 White wins both with the simple 31 ♖xe8 ♖xe8 32 ♖xa7, and the 'complicated' 31 ♖h6+. 'Consistent play by White and a textbook mating attack with a knight sacrifice' (Shipov).

The score became 2-0, and the mini-match was practically won. But the following day Karpov demonstrated his fighting qualities.